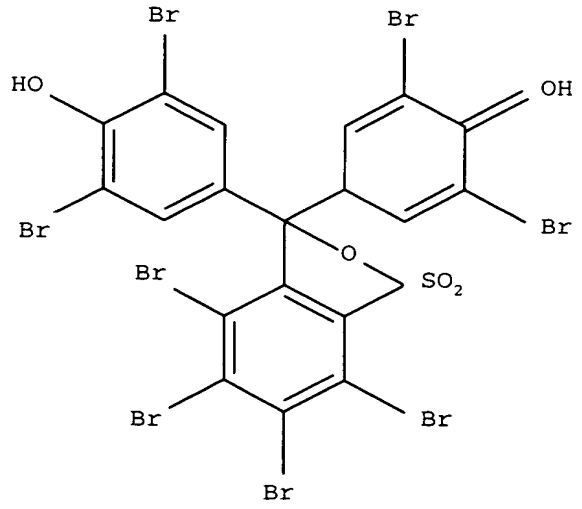
CLAIMS

1. A test piece for protein assay, said test piece used for quantifying or semi-quantifying a protein and containing an acidic pH indicator,

wherein said test piece contains a surfactant as a sensitizer for increasing coloration sensitivity with respect to the protein.

2. The test piece for protein assay according to Claim 1, wherein the acidic pH indicator is a triphenylmethane-based indicator.

3. The test piece for protein assay according to Claim 2, wherein the triphenylmethane-based indicator is tetrabromophenol blue expressed by the following Chemical Formula (1).



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4. The test piece for protein assay according to Claim 1, containing a cationic surfactant as the sensitizer.

5. The test piece for protein assay according to Claim 4, wherein the cationic surfactant is at least one type selected from the group consisting of benzyltrimethylammonium bromide, hexadecyltrimethylammonium bromide, lauryltrimethylammonium bromide, and zephiramine.

6. The test piece for protein assay according to Claim 1, containing a nonionic surfactant as the sensitizer.

7. The test piece for protein assay according to Claim 6, wherein the nonionic surfactant is polyethylene glycol.

8. The test piece for protein assay according to Claim 1, wherein a combination of the cationic surfactant and nonionic surfactant is used as the sensitizer.

9. The test piece for protein assay according to Claim 8, wherein the cationic surfactant is benzyltrimethylammonium bromide and the nonionic surfactant is polyethylene glycol.

10. A method for manufacturing a test piece for protein assay that is used for quantifying or semi-quantifying a protein, the method comprising the steps of impregnating an absorbent carrier with an impregnant containing an acidic pH indicator and a sensitizer, and drying the carrier,

wherein a surfactant is used as the sensitizer.

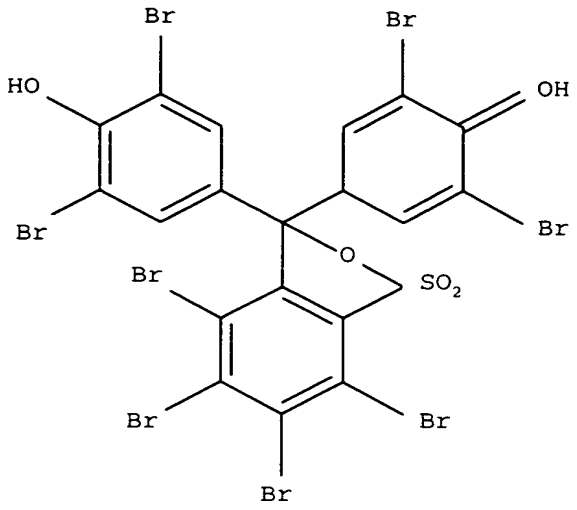
11. The method for manufacturing a test piece for protein assay according to Claim 10, wherein the surfactant is at least one type selected from the group consisting of benzyltrimethylammonium bromide, hexadecyltrimethylammonium bromide, lauryltrimethylammonium bromide, zephiramine, and polyethylene glycol.

12. The method for manufacturing a test piece for protein assay according to Claim 11, wherein a combination of benzyltrimethylammonium bromide and polyethylene glycol is used as the surfactant.

13. The method for manufacturing a test piece for protein assay according to Claim 10, wherein the amount of surfactant contained in the impregnant is set between 0.01 and 5 wt%.

14. The method for manufacturing a test piece for protein assay according to Claim 13, wherein the amount of surfactant contained in the impregnant is set between 0.01 and 1 wt%.

15. The method for manufacturing a test piece for protein assay according to Claim 10, wherein the tetrabromophenol blue expressed by the following Chemical Formula (2) is used as the acidic pH indicator.



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16. The method for manufacturing a test piece for protein assay according to Claim 10, wherein the concentration of the acidic pH indicator in the impregnant is set between 0.1 and 5 mM.

17. The method for manufacturing a test piece for protein assay according to Claim 16, wherein the pH of the impregnant is set at or below the pKa of the acidic pH indicator.

18. The method for manufacturing a test piece for protein assay according to Claim 17, wherein the pH of the impregnant is set between 2.0 and 4.5.